(c) the total expenditure incurred thereon till date;

(d) the total expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(e) the reasons for escalation of cost of the project?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) The North Koel (Kutku) project in Bihar was to be completed by 1994-95 by Bihar State Government. Irrigation is a State subject. The projects are planned, funded and implemented by the State Governments from their own resources. Completion of the project depends upon the priority given by the State Government.

(b) Installed capacity of the power-house is 24 megawatt.

(c) & (d) Anticipated expenditure upto March, 1995 was Rs. 386.01 crores. Approved outlay for 1995-96 is Rs. 45.00 crores. The latest estimated cost of the project (at 1991-92 level) is Rs. 475.00 crores.

(e) The reasons for escalation of cost of the Project are rise in prices during construction, non-availability of adequate funds, escalation in the cost of acquisition of land, rehabilitation and resettlement etc.

[English]

Issues with Bangladesh

*432. SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the outstanding issues with Bangladesh;

(b) whether the Government have taken any steps to expedite bilateral talks between India and Bangladesh to settle all these issues;

(c) if so, the details thereof, issue-wise;

(d) whether the second round of talks has already begun between the two countries; and

(e) if so, the details and the outcome thereof, so far?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL):(a) to (e). The outstanding issues with Bangladesh pending for settlement include sharing of waters of the major common rivers, repatriation of Chakma refugees to Bangladesh, Illegal immigration from Bangladesh, insurgency-related developments and further expansion of cultural, commercial and economic co-operation including transport linkages. The Government remains committed to the maintenance of friendly and co-operative relations with Bangladesh. For this purpose, soon after the installation of new Government in Bangladesh, the Foreign Secretary visited Dhaka in July 1996 to consider steps to move forward on all issues in the bilateral relations. A second round of discussions was held during the visit of Bangladesh Foreign Secretary to India from August 6-9, 1996. The discussions covered all the major issues in bilateral relations. It has been agreed to continue the dialogue towards resolution of these issues. A meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Economic Commission is proposed to be held later in the year.

[Translation]

Central Universities

*433. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the Central Universities in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to accord the status of Central University to the Patna University of Bihar; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI):

(a) A State-wise list of Central Universities is given below:-

DELHI

1. University of Delhi, Delhi.
2. Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
3. Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.
4. Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi.

UTTAR PRADESH

1. Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.
2. Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh.
3. Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow.

WEST BENGAL

1. Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan.

ANDHRA PRADESH

1. Hyderabad University, Hyderabad.

PONDICHERRY

1. Pondicherry University, Pondicherry.

MEGHALAYA

1. North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong.

ASSAM

1. Assam University, Silchar.
2. Tezpur University, Tezpur.

NAGALAND

1. Nagaland University, Kohima.

(b) There is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

Optional Subjects in KVs and NVs

*434. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL:
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce more new optional subjects in Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas at +2 level;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER FOR HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Presently both Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti offer a wide choice of subjects approved by Central Board of Secondary Education as options. Further widening of choices is limited by financial constraints.

[English]

New National Highways

*435. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new proposal for new National Highways are under considerations;

(b) whether any such highway is declared since the new Government took charge;

(c) whether there is a proposal for a National Highway from Kanyakumari to Mysore; and

(d) whether main central road in Kerala and some other roads have been recommended by State Government for declaration as National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (c). No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Irrigation Work in Tribal Areas

*436. SHRI GOPAL KRISHNA T.:
SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before the Union Government to undertake/to start irrigation works/schemes/ projects in tribal/hill areas to help the people;

(b) if so, the details of such schemes with estimated cost thereof in various States, State-wise; and

(c) the quantum of funds allocated for these irrigation works/schemes/projects during the past two years as well as during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) No, Sir. There are no such specific proposal to take up irrigation projects in tribal/hill areas under consideration of Union Government.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

War Histories

*437. SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: